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Press Release

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For immediate release

Pilot Food Waste Collection Program Debuts

Beginning May 14, Amherst Transfer Station permit (sticker) holders from Amherst, Pelham and Shutesbury may bring food waste to the Transfer Station for composting via a program offered by Amend Organics, a local agricultural composter. The six-month pilot pay-as-you-throw compost program will accept all food waste and food-soiled paper, including material unsuitable for home composting such as meat, dairy, seafood, bones and greasy pizza boxes. If the pilot is successful the collection program will continue.

Amend's special thirteen gallon biodegradable bags will be sold at the Transfer Station in rolls of fourteen for \$20.00. Compost collection bins will be located to the right of the paper recycling collection area. Collected material will be removed daily and transported to a nearby site approved and monitored by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The pilot program, a cooperative venture between the Solid Waste Division of the Amherst Department of Public Works and Cam Weimar of Amend Organics, is the first of several changes to be implemented as the DPW seeks balance between services offered and cost minimization to maintain a healthy Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. The Fund will receive a small income from Amend's program.

Organic waste continues to be the largest component of trash generated by Americans. Landfills are poor resting places for it due to expense (landfill fees are weight-based and it is heavy) and methane creation (created via decomposition sans oxygen). At a managed agricultural composting site, methane production is greatly reduced as food waste, along with yard trimmings, animal manure and food-soiled paper is processed into a valuable natural soil enhancer.

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